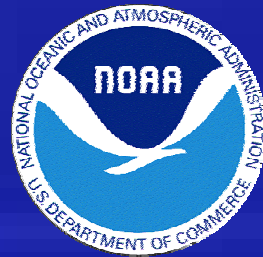


INFORMATION QUALITY ACT

"Section 515"

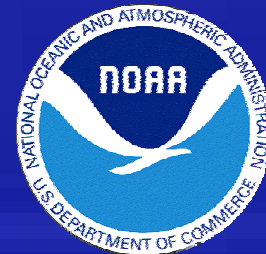
"Data Quality Act"

Marine Fisheries State Directors Meeting
San Diego, CA



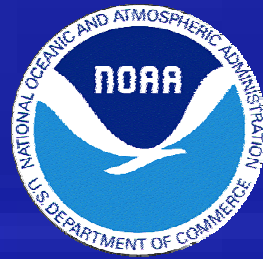
515 Background

- Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554) is called “The Data Quality Act”
- Section 515 directed OMB to issue government-wide guidelines to "provide ... guidance to federal agencies for ensuring and maximizing the **quality**, **objectivity**, **utility**, and **integrity** of information ... disseminated by federal agencies.”
- OMB directed each federal agency to develop guidelines
- Agencies’ Guidelines effective 1 October, 2002



Requirements

- **Standards:** Information quality is a performance goal.
- **Pre-dissemination review:** Information must be developed, created, and pre-reviewed with quality standards in mind.
- **Administrative mechanism:** Affected persons may request correction of information they believe does not comply with NOAA or OMB Guidelines.
- **Reports:** Annual and interim



Information

- biological surveys
- catch statistics
- model output
- oil spill trajectories
- damage assessments
- buoy data
- Web sites
- forecasts, warnings, advisories
- **information from third parties (e.g., states) that is used in NOAA products**



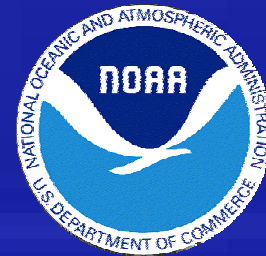
Dissemination

Includes:

- any intended release or distribution to the public
- “Agency initiated”
- “Agency sponsored”
- Any media or form (e.g., paper, web, CD,)

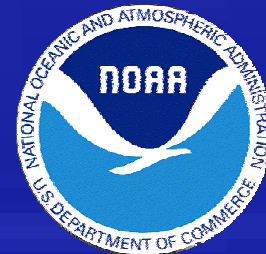
But not:

- normal academic publication, as long as it is clear that the information does *not* represent the views of NOAA



Information Quality (as defined by OMB)

- Applies to substance *and* presentation
- **Quality = Utility + Integrity + Objectivity**
- **Utility** = understandable, in context, accessible, unbiased
- **Integrity** = safe from improper access, confidentiality protected
- **Objectivity** = accurate, reliable and unbiased information presented in an accurate, clear, complete and unbiased manner.
 - Reproducibility
 - Transparency



NOAA's Sec. 515 Guidelines

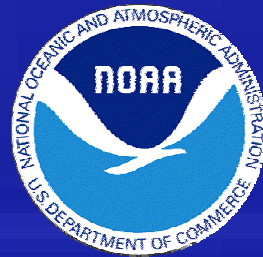
- One set of guidelines for all of NOAA
- Builds upon pre-existing info quality measures
- Posted on the NOAA home page under “Information Quality”
- url:

<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories/iq.htm>



Seven Categories of Information

- Original Data
- Synthesized Products
- Interpreted Products
- Hydrometeorological, Hazardous Chemical Spill, and Space Weather Warnings, Forecasts, and Advisories
- Experimental Products
- Natural Resource Plans
- Corporate and General Information



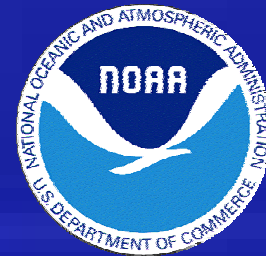
Objectivity Standard Examples

- Data collected according to documented procedures or by practices generally accepted by scientific community (SOPs)
- Data are quality checked before use or dissemination
- Third party data must be of known quality
- Analyses conducted on data of known quality that are identified
- Analysis methods, assumptions, limitations are documented and peer-reviewed when used regularly
- Interpreted products are peer reviewed and presented in context and in unbiased manner
- Natural Resource Plans are developed according to published guidelines, based on best available science and presented in an accurate, clear, complete and unbiased manner



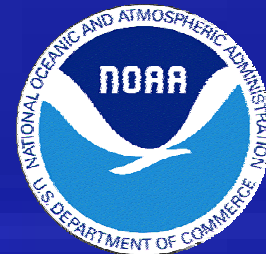
Relevance of the DQA to States

- States regularly provide data to NOAA
- NOAA uses state-provided data to develop information products or form the basis of NOAA decisions and policy
- Such data must be of known quality and consistent with NOAA's Information Quality Guidelines



Correction of State-Generated Information

- Request for Correction
 - “Affected person” alleges information fails to comply with applicable quality guidelines
- “Responsible Office” (within NOAA) investigates, analyzes and prepares initial decision
- May contact state for further information, e.g.
 - Source of data
 - Collection methods
 - Analysis methodology



Final Thoughts

- To the extent that fisheries-related information provided to NOAA by third parties (e.g., states, Interstate Commissions, Councils) is of known quality and consistent with NOAA's Information Quality Guidelines, the DQA does not require wholesale changes in the acquisition and dissemination of information
- NOAA's Information Quality Guidelines based on common sense and good scientific practice
- For further information, contact:

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